PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Friends

What a wonderful two weeks we have had!

Can I say what a tremendous celebration our Education Week Open Day was. It was a wonderful way for us to share the excellence from our classrooms whilst also having fun with our students, staff, parents and wider community. Our Science Fair and activities were examples of how our teachers are implementing the new Science syllabi in the classroom. Our Book Character Parade was all about fun whilst also promoting reading and a joy for literature in our students. A big thank you to Mrs McArdle for all her work with the Book Fair! What a joy it was to have our students and staff and even some preschools putting on costumes and parading. Thank you to our parents for their commitment and support of this exciting event! Thanks to all our staff for their enthusiasm and excitement in putting together such an excellent day and a special shout out to Mrs Ptolemy and Mrs Thompson for their overall organisation.

Next week is a most exciting week with our students performing at the Cranebrook Learning Community Performing Arts Festival. We look forward to viewing stunning performances from our students which are the results of their, and their teachers, hard work.

What a wonderful day our chess players enjoyed with Mr McAllister at the Penrith RSL Interschool Challenge. It has to be seen to be believed! The room is a bustling hive of activity and then the signal is given and all students go silent and the game begins. The development in our students throughout the day as our students developed their tactics and strategies was exciting. A big thank you to Mr McAllister for his work with the chess team.

August 15 is the date of our next Principal’s Assembly. Please ensure if your child is due to receive recognition for their outstanding performance and behaviour that their Award Booklet is given to their class teacher by this Friday, August 7.

Our organisation for Kindergarten 2016 is well under way. It is hoped that by now all students attending have completed their application to enrol. If you haven’t can you please complete this as soon as possible. I will be commencing interviewing and meeting with our 2016 students and their families this week. Last week Mrs Ptolemy and I proudly presented at a combined preschool transition meeting and we could not have received a more positive response!
Mr Bale and Ms Whybrow participated in the next stage of their training in our innovative QuickSmart Numeracy program. Both these tutors are now tutoring our students and helping them achieve improved results in Numeracy.

After our busy day on Open Day I suppose our intention to hold our P&C meeting was a little enthusiastic. But on a cold night our meeting proceeded with a quorum and we had a most productive evening. Mrs Patrick discussed Pasteur class and how Early Action 4 Success is impacting on her students. Mrs Todd and I presented our reviewed Anti-Bullying Plan and it was important to have the conversation and discussion from different perspectives across our school. I would like to strongly encourage our parents to come along to our next P&C meeting on August 25. Put this date in your diary.

The NAIDOC Cup was a tremendous day connecting our Aboriginal students with the wider community whilst celebrating Aboriginal culture with their friends. A big thank you to Mr Kristof, Mrs Patrick and Mrs Fayers for their efforts on the day making this day such a success. Congratulations to our students for their great play in netball and Oztag.

Tonight, Mrs Williams, Mrs Cummings and myself will be attending the Sydney Opera House to see our Recorder Group perform in the Concert Hall. This is a most special night for the students and their families. There are not too many of us that can say we have performed in this iconic building and I congratulate these students on achieving this level of excellence!

Our Year 6 students strengthened our connection with Cranebrook High School by participating in the first session of their high school transition training. The students enjoyed a wonderful afternoon taking part in activities including cooking, industrial arts and visual arts.

Tomorrow is our School Athletics Carnival. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us at the Parker St oval. Good luck to all our students who will attempt to qualify for the Penrith District Athletics Carnival and to everyone else have fun. A big thank you to Mr Attard and Mrs Patrick to their innovative solution to our rained out carnival. Can I remind all parents that this is a school event and as such the venue becomes an alcohol, non smoking and non animal venue. Please don’t put us in the embarrassing situation of having to remind you of these rules. Please ensure in the afternoon that you sign your child out with your class teacher. No child will be released with other parents unless the class teacher has written confirmation of this. Please help us out on this matter.

I have had a number of parents ask when this year’s NAPLANs assessment will be available. The school has been informed that they should be back by the end of August 21.

A big welcome back to Mrs Casey Hetherington who is replacing Mrs Julie Cheetham whilst Mrs Cheetham is on leave until the end of October. Mrs Hetherington, who you may remember as Miss Howell, will be working on our Early Action for Success initiative.

Have a great two weeks!

Adam Wynn
Principal
Book Fair

Last Tuesday Cambridge Gardens Public School held its “Under the Sea” Book Fair. It was a fantastic success. Our library literally buzzed until around noon. Lots of happy, smiling faces, lots of chat and lots of fun was had. We sold around $3,300 worth of books, which earns around $1,100 worth of books for the library. Thank you to all the students, parents and teachers for your continuing support.

M. McArdle
Teacher Librarian

Kindergarten 2016

Kindergarten interviews with Mr Wynn will be commencing in this week. Appointments for students who have applied to enrol in 2016 will be scheduled in the coming weeks. It would assist us greatly if all applications to enrol are submitted as soon as possible so that we can begin organising appointments.

It is essential that parents and caregivers, who wish to enrol their children for Kindergarten in 2016, send in the application to enrol forms promptly. Next week, we will be notifying the Department of Education about our expected school numbers for next year. These expected numbers will assist our school administration in planning for staffing and resources.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us prepare for Kindergarten 2016. There will be further information about Orientation events later this term.

2015 K-6 Athletics Carnival: New Date and Venue

As you are aware, our Athletics Carnival was postponed due to the poor state of the grounds. The new date for the carnival will be TOMORROW Wednesday 5th August, 2015 and will now be held at Parker Street Oval, Penrith.

Payments received for the bus and use of the grounds will be rolled over and a canteen will be available on the day. If you have not paid please forward $7.00 with the permission note.

Information regarding the school canteen lunch packs will be announced at a later date.

A new permission note needs to be completed and returned to the office.

Year 6 Fundraising Cake Stall

A big thank you for supporting our Year 6 fundraising at the cake stall on our Open day. We raised almost $900.
The *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by 18th August. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

**CLOTHING POOL will be open in the train Tuesday mornings from 9.15 to 9.45 a.m.**

We are conducting a School Run 4 Fun Program for the students as a major fundraiser for this term so we do ask for your support. The event will take place on 4th September. All monies raised will provide additional technology resources for the students.

Students have now received a poster size Sponsorship Form with a great selection of toy brands including Nike, Sony, Apple, Disney Frozen, GoPro, Razor, Nerf and more. This form will assist with collecting sponsorship donations on behalf of the school.

Inside the Sponsorship Form you will find helpful tips on how to raise more money for the school as well as other benefits such as the chance to win a Bali Family Holiday.

We ask you to seek donations on a $2 or $4 or $5 or $10 per sponsor. Students who raise as little as $10 or more will receive a reward prize for their efforts. The more donations you receive the better prize(s) you can choose. You can even boost your prizes with the option to mix and match. More details are included in the attached Sponsorship Form.

Once the fundraiser is complete, please cut out the ‘how to claim your prize section’ on the Sponsorship Form and return along with your monies to the School office on or before 4th September. Please be sure to fill out your prize request. The individual prizes will be delivered shortly after.

We would also invite parents and family members to join in on the day. Students, Parents and Friend groups can come dressed in the same colour shirt, themes or just in their sport uniform. Happy fundraising!
NEWSLETTER

At our last General P&C meeting it was decided that meetings will continue to be held on the fourth Tuesday of every Month at 7pm.

It was a great night with Guest Speaker Mrs Patrick from Pasteur. It was also very informative to hear about the Schools Anti Bullying Plan and the way the school handles issues in our school.

Next P&C Meeting

The next general meeting will be held Tuesday 25th August 2015 at 7pm in the library. Please come along, as this is an opportunity to bring together Parents/Carer’s and Teaching Staff to promote the best interest of the school and all the children attending. Decisions we are making at the P&C meetings affect your child’s schooling.

We are open to suggestions of discussion topics and teachers you would like to hear from, either in regards to your child’s classroom or extra curricular activities in the school. Please drop a note into the suggestion box or feel free to email the P&C at cambridgegardenspublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au

School banking

School banking is on this Friday 7th August. Please ensure you complete the deposit slip and secure your money in the banking wallet. All bank books are to be taken directly to the office before school. If anyone is available to assist in banking on a Friday morning please see Karlea or let us know via the parents Facebook page or above email.

2015 Parent/Carer helpers

Even if you can’t attend meetings we still need you. If you could fill in the slip below or drop an email to us we will add you to our helping hand data base. There are often tasks either during the week or after hours which you can assist in. It benefits your child and the entire school community by parents and carers showing a strong presence and engagement at school.

Yes, please add me to the helping hands data base.

Name: __________________
Phone: _________________
Email: __________________
Signature: _______________

Many thanks,

Leanne Reed (President)